

During the Truman presidency the White House was greatly in need of repair. In 1948, Congress voted millions of dollars to **renovate** it. It would have been much less costly to construct an entirely new building, but the public was opposed to abandoning the historic mansion. For although the White House is the president's residence, it belongs to the American people and is an American tradition.

Today, more than a million people tour the White House every year. Via television, millions more have

visited both the public rooms and the apartment where the First Family lives. They see a house whose rooms are handsomely furnished with **antiques** and important works of American art. They see comfortable, cheery family rooms. They see the **imposing** Oval Office, where so many important decisions are made. No matter who the president may be at the time, they see that the **essence** of the White House remains amazingly unchanged, year after year.

THINKING IT OVER

- (1) How much has the White House changed over the years? The White House has changed very little.
- (2) What are the three functions of the White House? 1) Residence 2) Office 3) Museum 4) Symbol of America
- (3) How did the White House get its name? People called it the "White House" and TR made it official

STUDYING THE PASSAGE

- (1) Find the Main Idea: Choose one.
- (a) What the First Families have been like.
 - (b) What the First Families did in the White House.
 - (c) The history of the White House and its significance for Americans.
 - (d) The uses of the White House.
- C
- (2) Find the Facts: Mark each one *true* or *false*.
- (a) The White House was first called the President's House. T
 - (b) The White House is made of Virginia sandstone. T
 - (c) The White House was first occupied in the fall of 1800. T
 - (d) Dolley Madison dried the family wash in the East Room. F
 - (e) Everyone could visit the White House in Jackson's presidency. T
 - (f) British troops set fire to the White House. T
 - (g) The White House was renovated during Theodore Roosevelt's presidency. F
 - (h) Over a million people visit the White House each year. T
- (3) Find the Order: Number the following in the order in which they appear in the passage.
- (a) Since these unglamorous beginnings, presidential families have lived here. 3
 - (b) President James Buchanan lived comfortably in the private suite. 6
 - (c) They see the imposing Oval Office. 8
 - (d) The presidential mansion is a combination residence, office building, and museum. 1
 - (e) Thomas Jefferson brought an informal lifestyle to the White House. 4
 - (f) The East Room became a barracks. 5
 - (g) It would have been much less costly to construct an entirely new building. 7
 - (h) It stood in a sea of mud dotted with workmen's shacks and tools. 2

- (4) Go beyond the Facts: Which one of the following does the writer seem to suggest?
- (a) Presidents should not be allowed to make any change in the White House because it is a national museum.
 - (b) The White House is not as elegant as the homes of other nation's leaders.
 - (c) Americans value tradition more than money.
 - (d) The nation cannot afford to maintain such an expensive residence for the president.
- (5) Determine the Writer's Style and Technique: Which one does the writer *not* do?
- (a) Give facts and details.
 - (b) Include anecdotes and short stories.
 - (c) Use examples.
 - (d) Give an opinion.

USING THE WORDS

- (1) Words and Their Meanings: Find the boldfaced word for these definitions.

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|-----------------|---|
| <u>ailing</u> | (a) sick |
| <u>renovate</u> | (b) do over; refurbish |
| <u>imprint</u> | (c) a lasting impression |
| <u>heritage</u> | (d) something handed down from one's ancestors or the past |
| <u>barracks</u> | (e) where soldiers live |
| <u>antiques</u> | (f) very old furniture, silverware, tools, etc.; of former times |
| <u>essence</u> | (g) that which makes something what it is; most important or basic quality of a thing |
| <u>imposing</u> | (h) grand in size, manner, looks, etc. |

- (2) Write a paragraph using three of the words. Use a separate piece of paper.

WRITING ABOUT IT

Use a separate piece of paper.

- (1) Reread the passage and make notes. Then write a booklet on the White House for visiting tourists.
- (2) Imagine you were visiting the White House and had a chance to speak to the president. What questions would you ask him? Think about the different subject areas you might question him about, such as foreign policy, the environment, health care, or other concerns you have about your country as well as questions about him and his family and the White House. Make a list of your questions, grouping them under appropriate headings.